

Testimony for the PCSW and especially “Young Women’s Rising” and the essay contest.

Hello,

My name is Kathleen DelMonico and I am English Department Chair and teacher at New Milford High School, New Milford. We have approximately 1400 students whose population is representative of this generation’s goals and aspirations. In the fall, seniors come back to school anxious about where their last year in high school will lead them. For the most part they feel ready to “fly” and assert their independence either furthering their education or work. They have so much to say but their voices get lost in the barrage of social media, academic essays, tests, and applications that they have for communication.

I have senior classes and so I use the Young Women’s Rising prompt as a way for my young men and women to have a VOICE and add their ideas about women in leadership to the world.

They never stop surprising me with their insights and it gives me hope that we have youth who want to lead and who can see the ways we can improve our society. Over the years, I have been fortunate to have 4 winners and witness the powerful impact that this award had on their lives. Not only does the program give youth a chance to have a voice they provide an avenue and networking opportunities for them grow. Their parents are proud and they and the students see, the GOOD in our state’s government that supports this program. The awardees receive no money but the pride they feel and the empowerment they take away is worth far more than money. This is an important program for our youth please continue its support so we may hear the voices of our next generation of leaders.

Thank you, Kathleen DelMonico, New Milford High School, New Milford, CT

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